



Mediation News

Maryland Commission on Human Relations Newsletter

WINTER 2004

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Maryland Mediators Convention of 2004

The 2nd Maryland Mediators Convention was held at the University of Maryland Conference Center on December 3, 2004. More than 350 mediators attended the convention which began with a video of some actual "man/woman on the street" interviews conducted with Maryland citizens across the state regarding what they knew about mediation.

Over 30 sessions were held at the Convention on a variety of ADR topics. One attendee wrote, "This single event provided me with all the information I needed to make Maryland my 'place' for doing mediation." Other attendees enjoyed meeting new people, networking, and the diverse learning.

If you missed this year's convention ~ stay tuned! The next Maryland Mediators Convention will be in 2006.

Volunteer Spotlight



For more than 35 years until he retired in April 2002, **TERRY VANN** was an attorney with the Federal Government, specializing in labor and employment law. Terry spent 29 years at the National Labor Relations Board, serving in various positions including Assistant Solicitor and Chief Counsel to the Chairman. In 1997, he became Chief Counsel and then Chief of Staff at the Merit Systems Protection Board, where he helped design and implement an ADR program for Federal employees filing charges with the Board. He has also been a guest lecturer in labor law courses at the George Washington University School of Law.

When Terry left the Federal Government, he immediately enrolled for mediation training. He says that mediation gives him the opportunity to fight his natural tendency to tell people what to do and his goal in every mediation is to help the parties place themselves in each others' shoes. In addition to MCHR, Terry is a mediator for and Co Chair of the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County and has mediated for the EEOC and the Federal Executive Board. He also mediates and facilitates problem solving for synagogues and other religious institutions.

Although Terry regards everything as fun, for extra enjoyment he plays bridge, golf, reads, travels, studies Spanish, annoys his wife ☺ and follows his beloved North Carolina Tar Heels. His original retirement goal of watching three movies a day will not be met ~ he hasn't had time to see three movies in three years! *Thanks to Terry for continuing to volunteer for MCHR!*

UPDATE on the Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence

Mediators in Maryland are continuing to work together on the ambitious project of setting up a Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME) for the state. The Mediator Excellence Council (MEC) met in January to consider additional representation on the MEC, how to disseminate information about the MPME, and an appropriate timeline for the project. *The MEC hopes to "roll out" the Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence in the fall of 2005* with a first opportunity at that time for mediators around the state to "sign up" to join the program. Participating mediators will be listed as such in the ADR On-Line Directory and their achievements in the program will also be indicated there. By the inclusion of ethical standards and a grievance process, as well as by the other components such as continuing training, case discussion opportunities and performance based assessments, the Mediator Excellence Council is excited to be creating a unique program. More info to come!

Have a Friend Who Wants to Mediate?
We're always recruiting new volunteers.
Call Tara or Maria for more info!

MEDIATION News

APRIL	
3 - 4	Virginia Mediation Network Spring Conference, Richmond, VA (www.vamediation.org to register)
14 – 16	ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Annual Conference, Los Angeles (www.abanet.org for more info)
21 (Noon – 4p)	MCHR Training: Impasse Strategies in Mediation Baltimore office (contact Tara at 410-767-6459 or ttaylor@mail.mchr.state.md.us to register)
JUNE	
10 (9a – 1p)	MCHR Training: Agreement Writing Baltimore office (contact Tara at 410-767-6459 or ttaylor@mail.mchr.state.md.us to register)
SEPT 28 – OCT 1	Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR)'s Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN (http://www.ACRnet.org/conferences/ac05 for more info)

Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

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